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P.O. Box 8664
861 ARBUTUS DRIVE
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29202
803-787-6910
WWW.CHICORA.ORG

Project: Strawberry Tract, Berkeley County

Project Sponsor: Beazer Homes

Agency and Permit Number: None given

Project Location: TMS 2110002008, Berkeley County, South Carolina in the vicinity of Strawberry, owned by Matthews – Strawberry LLC (Berkeley County Register of Deeds, DB 1197, pg. 29). No title search was conducted.

Field Personnel: Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., RPA

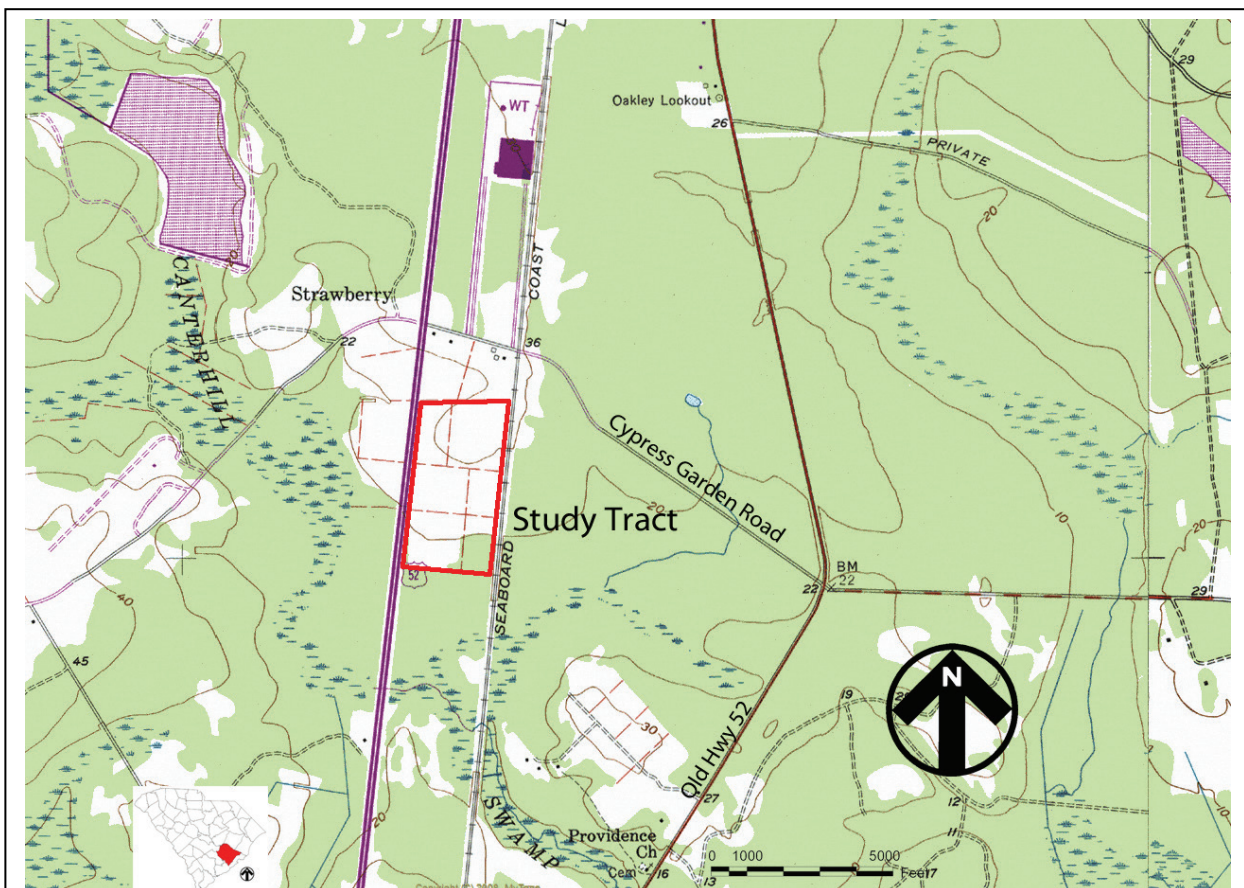


Figure 1. Portion of the Mount Holly 1957PR79 topographic map showing the project site.

Date of Survey: October 22, 2019

Objective: To obtain initial historic research that will assist in better understanding the types of archaeological sites present on the tract; to evaluate land use activities and their potential effects on possible archaeological sites; and to identify the areas of the tract that have the highest probability of producing archaeological and/or historical sites (if any).

Survey Description: The survey tract consists of 74.6 acres located between US 52 to the west and railroad tracts to the east. It is bounded to north by two commercial tracts and to the south by additional vacant land. Beazer is considering single-family residences for the tract.

Four soil series are present on the parcel, including small quantities of Bethera and Craven soils. Most of the parcel consists of Meggett and Wahee soils. The Craven Series, found in two small areas of the parcel, are the only soils that are moderately well drained. The remainder of the soils are generally poorly drained. This poor historic drainage is clearly evidenced by the ditches seen in the topographic map, created to allow for cultivation. Some of these ditches remain.

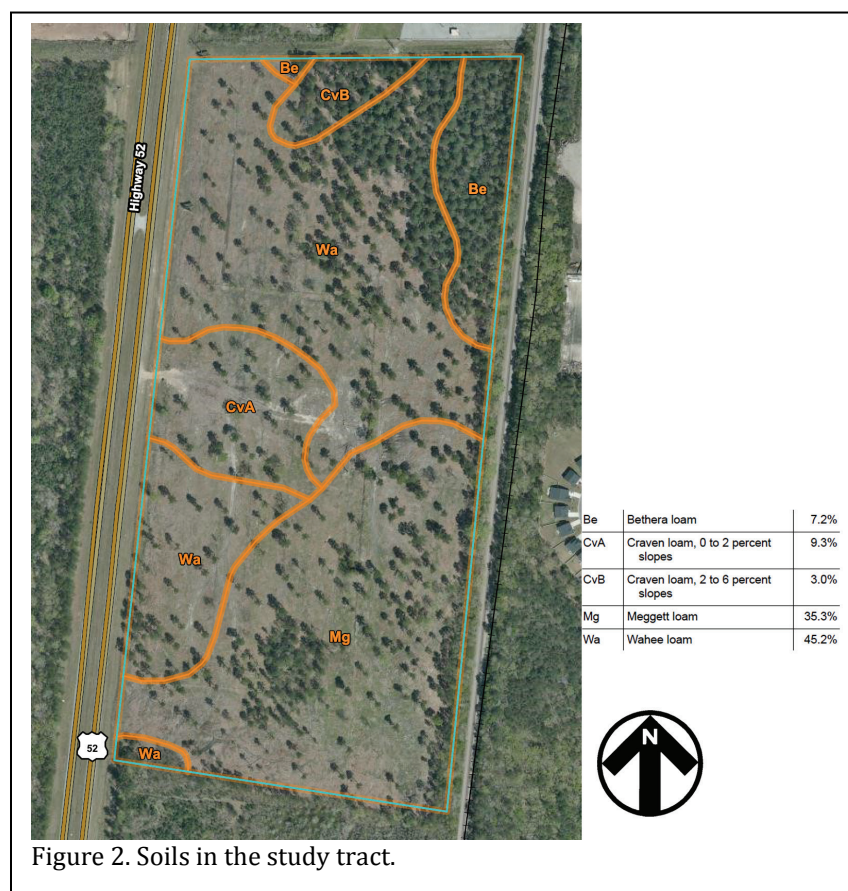


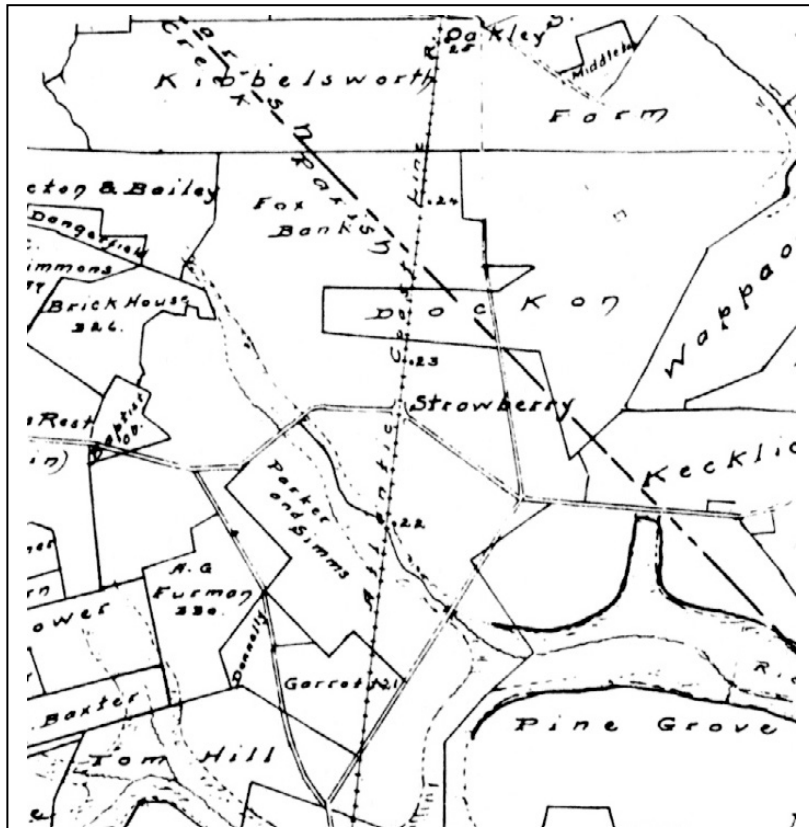
Figure 2. Soils in the study tract.

Today the tract is covered in planted pines with, in some area, an understory of herbaceous vines and scrub. The topography is generally level with a slight drop to the south in some areas.

Brief Historical Comments: No detailed historic research was conducted, although a variety of historic maps was examined for the project area. One of the earlier maps, Mills' *Atlas* of 1824 fails to reveal any plantations or other activities in the vicinity. As a subscription map, however, this is not unexpected.

The J.P. Gaillard *Property Map*, showing tract owners between about 1902 and 1962, reveals that the property was historically known as Fox Bank. This was a rice plantation, owned by Keating Simmons about the time of the American Revolution. By the antebellum, it was owned by Samuel Lynes and

subsequently by his son, George Lynes. The only plat that we were able to quickly identify dates to 1881 when the plantation was being subdivided among heirs (Figure 4). Contrary to the Gaillard map, this plan suggests that the study tract was no longer part of the Fox Bank by this time – additional historical research would be necessary to better define historic property ownership. However, for the case of Fox Bank, it appears that both the graveyard and the main house are on the west side of US52, likely northwest of the parcel. It may be that the parcel is actually part of Strawberry Plantation to the east, along the Cooper River (the Gaillard map is ambiguous since although it lists "Strawberry," this was also the name of the railroad stop at this location).



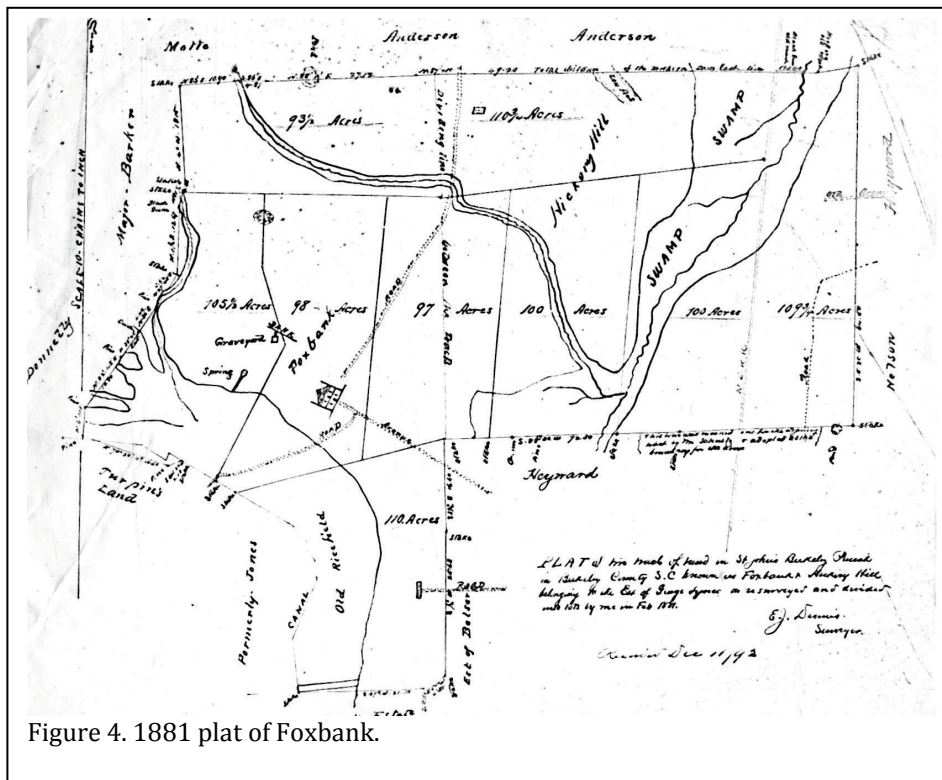
Also examined was the 1920 Summerville USGS 15' topographic map (Figure 5). This map reveals that there was a cluster of five structures at the Strawberry station, as well as three additional structures on the east side of the railroad to the south. There were no structures, however, identified on the study parcel.

Previously Identified Prehistoric and Historic Sites: ArchSite was examined, using a 500-foot area of potential impacts (APE). This APE was chosen given the proximity of multiple significant developments, including commercial tracts immediately adjacent to the north, the railroad to the east, a major US highway to the west, and extensive single-family home development to the east, centered around Old US 52 and Cypress Gardens Road.

ArchSite identified four previously identified archaeological sites: 38BK1658 (combined with a standing structure, 3460017), 38BK1786, 38BK1787, and 38BK1788.

Architectural site 3460017 was the ca. 1920 Matthews House determined not eligible for the National Register (Fick and Schneider 1989). Regardless, it is no longer extant, the result of development by the Berkeley County Electric Cooperative. It is likely that archaeological site 38BK1658 has also been impacted by that development.

The remaining three sites, identified during a pipeline corridor



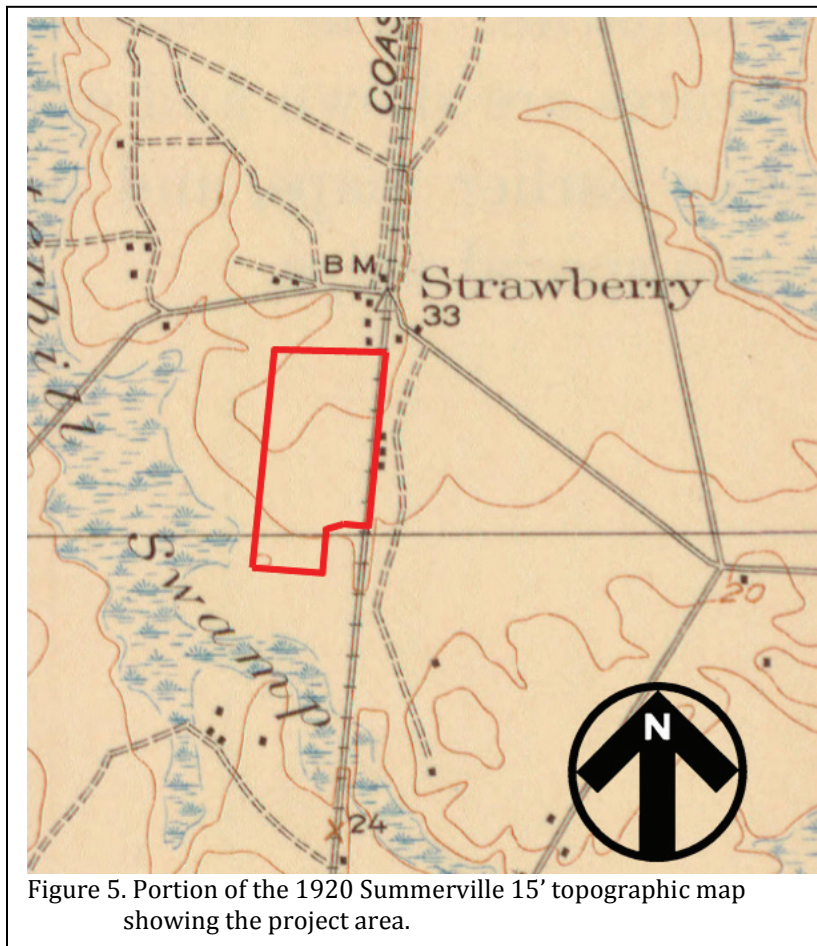


Figure 5. Portion of the 1920 Summerville 15' topographic map showing the project area.

study (Bailey and Poplin 1998). All three sites were identified as late nineteenth and early twentieth century historic sites with relatively low-density scatters of historic artifacts. All were recommended not eligible. All of the sites were identified on poorly drained soils.

Comparison of the ArchSite map to the 1920 topographic map reveals that the structures recorded as archaeological sites are all shown as extant in 1920. They likely represent tenants farming the surrounding area, although it is possible that among the cluster there may also be one or more merchants.

This existing information suggests that it is possible that historic sites are present on the study tract – but there is no evidence of any such settlement on any of the consulted maps.

Previous Land Use History: Two aerial images, in addition to the

1920 topographic map, were examined. The topographic map suggests that cultivation was likely taking place, although no coverage is shown. Certainly, by 1957, the fields were being intensively cultivated and drainage ditches had been excavated. Most of the structures shown in the 1920 topographic map were no longer present or were in ruins. By 1989, some of the lowest and most poorly drained soils, at the southeastern corner of the parcel, were no longer in cultivation and the ditch lines had vegetation growing in them. By 2019, pines were taking over the property as cultivation has ceased.

Public Outreach: Chicora Foundation has conducted no public outreach. Given development in the area, it is unlikely that development of this tract will attract much attention.

Field Investigation: A brief field investigation was conducted (without shovel testing) at the time of this assessment. Figure 7 shows the vegetation along U.S. 52.

General Findings and Recommendations: No archaeological sites have been recorded on the property and those identified nearby have been relatively recent historic domestic sites and have been determined not eligible. Historic research has found no clear documentation of historic sites on the property and additional research would be necessary to be certain what plantation the property is most likely associated with. Regardless, it is unlikely that the relatively low and poorly drained soils would be attractive to eighteenth or nineteenth century occupation, which would be focused on areas adjacent to water (either for rice cultivation or for river transport). The overview of previous land use further suggests that the parcel has been extensively cultivated and ditched. This likely affected the presence of any archaeological sites that might potentially be present. In fact, the 38BK1786-1788 site forms all mention silvacultural disturbances. I see no high or moderate probability areas where I recommend additional investigations. Depending on permitting requirements, however, the lead agency may require more intensive examinations.

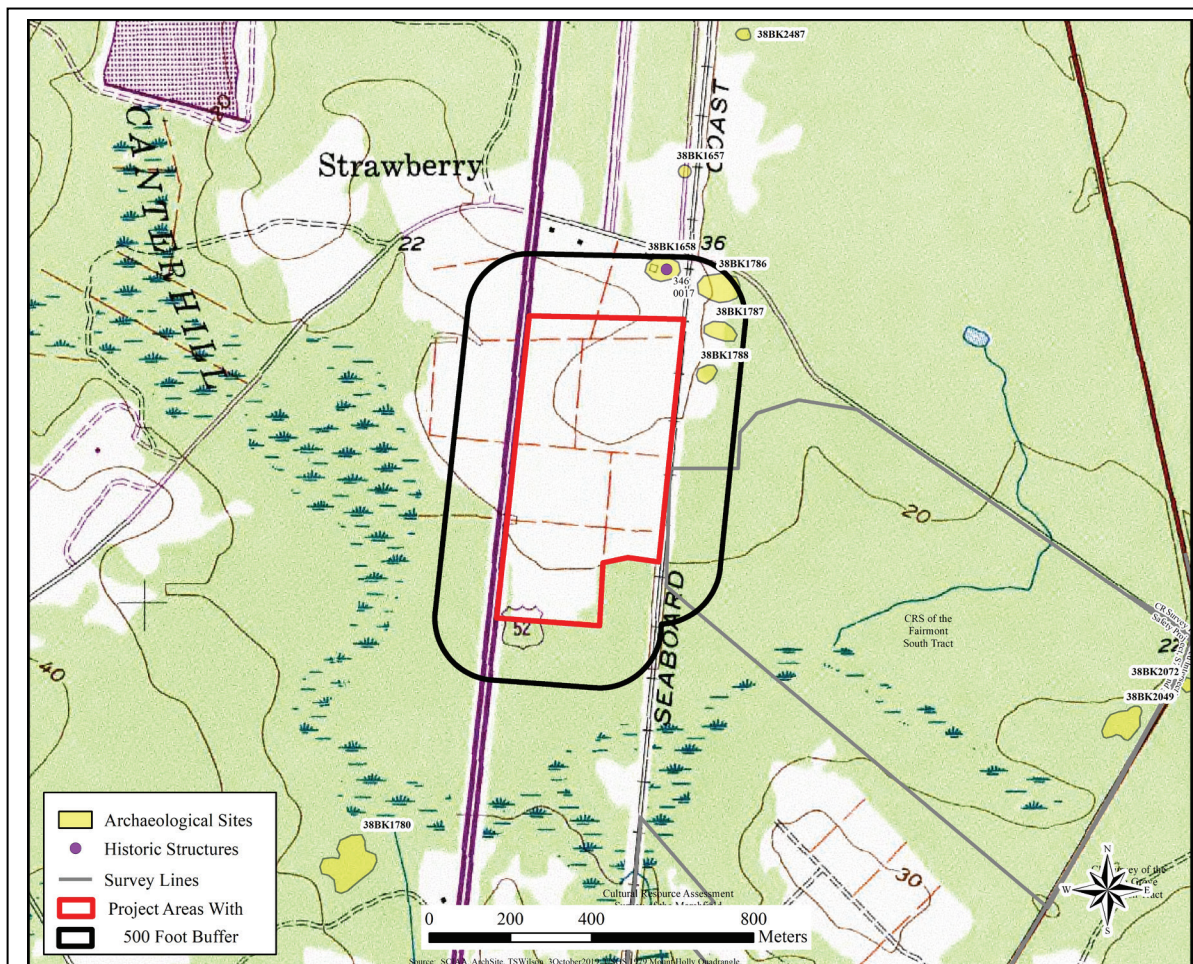


Figure 6. ArchSite map showing the project area and a 500-foot APE.

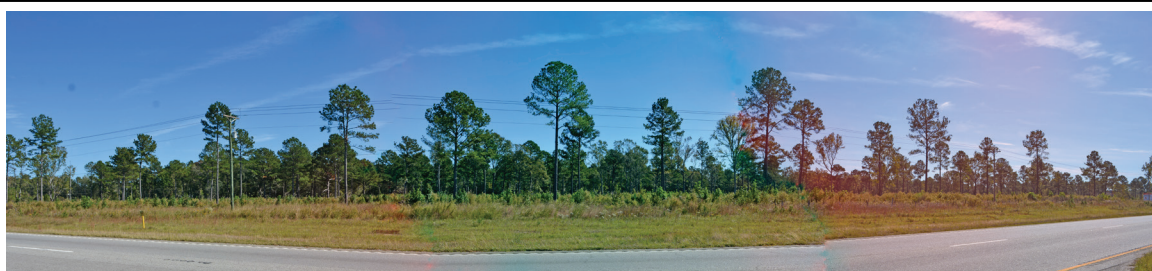


Figure 7. Study parcel from U.S. 52 looking east.

Sources Cited:

Bailey, Ralph and Eric C. Poplin

1998 *Archaeological Survey of MGI Industry's Proposed Nitrogen Gas Line, Berkeley County, South Carolina*. Brockington and Associates, Atlanta.

Fick, Sarah and David Schneider

1989 *Berkeley County Historical and Architectural Inventory Survey Report*. Preservation Consultants. Charleston, South Carolina.